

NRCS Certification Requirements for Technical Service Providers for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning in Pennsylvania

Required Qualifications for Total CNMP Approval – Certified Conservation Planner

Required Qualifications for Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage Certified Specialist

Required Qualifications for Land Treatment Practices Certified Specialist

Required Qualifications for Nutrient Management Certified Specialists

Required Qualifications for Total CNMP Approval Certified Conservation Planner

Satisfy one of the following two options:

Option 1 - NRCS PA Conservation Planner Certification

Requirements to become an NRCS Certified Conservation Planner in PA

1. Introduction to Water Quality (Course available on-line through the AgLearn)
2. NRCS Ag Waste Man. Systems: A Primer Course (Course available on-line through AgLearn)
3. Conservation Planning Modules 1-9 (Modules 1-5 available on-line through AgLearn)
4. Cultural Resources Modules 1-8 (Modules 1-6 available on-line through AgLearn)
5. **ACT 38/Basic Pasture Nutrient Management Plan Writing
6. **Boot Camp I & 2
7. **Proficient experience in Practice Standards : 328, 329, 330, 340, 362, 412, 528 & 600
8. **ACT38/RUSLE/Storm Water/P Index 3 day course
9. **Summer Agronomy

** These courses are not mandatory and equivalent experience may be substituted

OR

Option 2- Validus Services, LLC Conservation College National Conservation Planning Certification

Upon Completion of the above requirements the applicant can be certified through TechReg , however NRCS will need to review the first CNMP developed by the applicant either as a stand alone document, or as a component of complete CNMP developed jointly with others certified for remaining components.
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Required Qualifications for Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage Element Certified Specialist

General Requirements for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of any CNMP element. Satisfy each for the following four general requirements:

1. NRCS Cons. Planning, Part 1: Modules 1-5 (NRCS on-line course NEDC 000019)
2. NRCS Ag Waste Man. Systems: A Primer Course (NRCS NEDC 000115)
3. Awareness of NRCS FOTG (NRCS NEDC 000149)
4. Awareness of CNMP Technical Guidance

AND

Specific Requirement for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage element

A Pennsylvania Professional Engineer (PE) license is required for development, and/or design and implementation of the element Manure and Wastewater Handling and Storage PLUS one of the following options:

- OR **Option 1** - Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program (ACT 38) Certification
- OR **Option 2** - University of Tennessee/Iowa State University Technical Service Provider CNMP certification program.
- OR **Option 3** - Validus Services Technical Service Provider CNMP Program
- OR **Option 4** – Complete NRCS Ag Waste Management Systems – Level 2 (NRCS online course NEDC 000116)

Upon Completion of the above requirements the applicant can be certified through [TechReg](#), however NRCS will need to review the first CNMP developed by the applicant either as a stand alone document, or as a component of complete CNMP developed jointly with others certified for remaining components.

Required Qualifications for Land Treatment Practices Element Certified Specialist

General Requirements for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of any CNMP element. Satisfy each for the following four general requirements:

1. NRCS Cons. Planning, Part 1: Modules 1-5 (NRCS on-line course NEDC 000019)
2. NRCS Ag Waste Man. Systems: A Primer Course (NRCS NEDC 000115)
3. Awareness of NRCS FOTG (NRCS NEDC 000149)
4. Awareness of CNMP Technical Guidance

AND

Specific Requirement for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of Land Treatment Practices element. Satisfy one of the following options:

Option 1 - NRCS PA Conservation Planner Certification

OR

Option 2 - Validus Services Technical Service Provider CNMP Program

OR

Option 3 - University of Tennessee/Iowa State University Technical Service Provider CNMP certification program.

OR

Option 4 - Validus Services, LLC. Conservation College National Conservation Planning Certification

Upon Completion of the above requirements the applicant can be certified through TechReg , however NRCS will need to review the first CNMP developed by the applicant either as a stand alone document, or as a component of complete CNMP developed jointly with others certified for remaining components.
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Required Qualifications for Nutrient Management Element Certified Specialist

General Requirements for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of any CNMP element. Satisfy each for the following four general requirements:

1. NRCS Cons. Planning, Part 1: Modules 1-5 (NRCS on-line course NEDC 000019)
2. NRCS Ag Waste Man. Systems: A Primer Course (NRCS NEDC 000115)
3. Awareness of NRCS FOTG (NRCS NEDC 000149)
4. Awareness of CNMP Technical Guidance

AND

Specific Requirements for individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of the Nutrient Management element – Satisfy one of the following options:

Option 1 - Pennsylvania Nutrient Management Program (Act 38) Certification (REQUIRED for official Act 38 plan submission to conservation district)

OR

Option 2 - University of Tennessee/Iowa State University Technical Service Provider CNMP certification program

OR

Option 3 - Validus Services Technical Service Provider CNMP Program

OR

Option 4 (a-d)

- a) Complete NRCS Introduction to Water Quality Course
- b) Skill in using the PA Phosphorus Index
- c) Complete NRCS Nutrient and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning Course, as it pertains to nutrient management
- d) Skill in developing a plan to address the nutrient management conservation practice in compliance with the NRCS Nutrient Management (FOTG Practice Code 590) conservation practice standard.

Upon Completion of the above requirements the applicant can be certified through TechReg , however NRCS will need to review the first CNMP developed by the applicant either as a stand alone document, or as a component of complete CNMP developed jointly with others certified for remaining components.
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NRCS References Sites

Conservation Planning, Part 1 (Modules 1-5):

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/consplan.html>

Introduction to Water Quality Course:

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/introdh20.html>

Agricultural Waste Management Systems-A Primer

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/agwasteprimer.html>

Agricultural Waste Management Systems Level 2 Course:

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/agwaste2.html>

Nutrient Management and Pest Management Considerations in Conservation Planning

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/catalog/nutandpest.html>

Introduction to the Field Office Technical Guide (on-line course)

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/fotg/index.html>

Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>

CNMP Technical Guidance

http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/H/H_180_600_E_5.htm

National Employee Development Center - AgLearn

<http://www.nedc.nrcs.usda.gov/>

TechReg

<http://techreg.usda.gov/>